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5  
OF 6

SNYDER  
ORLANDO  
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PLASCENCIA

# BATMAN™ *THE Shadow*

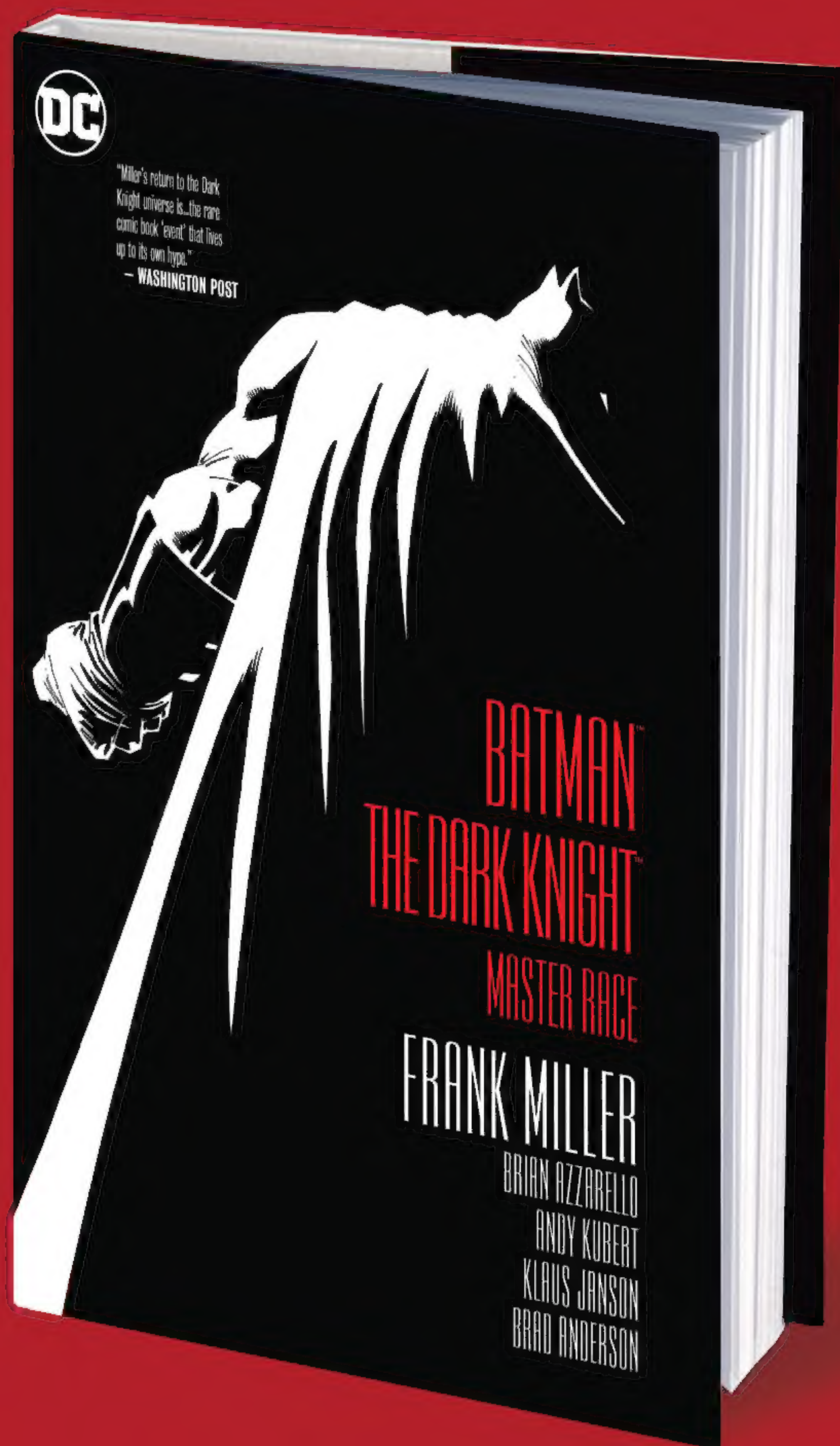


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# HE'S BACK.

## FRANK MILLER RETURNS TO HIS LEGENDARY DARK KNIGHT SERIES



"Lives up to the hype."

—WASHINGTON POST

"For fans of Miller's DARK KNIGHT series, this is vital reading."

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"A masterful return."

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## BATMAN THE DARK KNIGHT MASTER RACE FRANK MILLER

BRIAN AZZARELLO  
ANDY KUBERT  
KLAUS JANSON

Available September







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# BATMAN™ *THE Shadow*®



TSATC  
2017

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THE COVE.

HRRNNNNN

HOLD ON, MASTER BRUCE...



...WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?

**STABBED** WITH A PREHISTORIC DAGGER INTERWOVEN WITH METAPHYSICAL CIRCUITRY.

WOUNDS FROM THE STAG DO NOT **HEAL**. THIS IS **FRUITLESS**, PENNYWORTH.

**SHUT UP** AND HAND ME THE **STAPLE GUN**.

YOU DON'T KNOW **EVERYTHING**, SHADOW.



HOURS  
LATER.



...YOU WERE  
RIGHT.

IT WAS LIKE THE WOUND  
**FOUGHT BACK**--NO  
NATURAL **COAGULATION**, THE  
ARTERIES DIDN'T CLOSE  
**NORMALLY.**

MASTER  
BRUCE IS  
**STABLE**...BUT  
FOR HOW LONG?  
I DON'T  
KNOW.



ALL WE'VE DONE  
IS DELAY THE  
**INEVITABLE.**

THE WOUND **WILL**  
FESTER. THE  
STAG'S ANCIENT  
SICKNESS **WILL**  
CREEP. THE  
STRIKE **WILL** KILL  
HIM IN TIME...



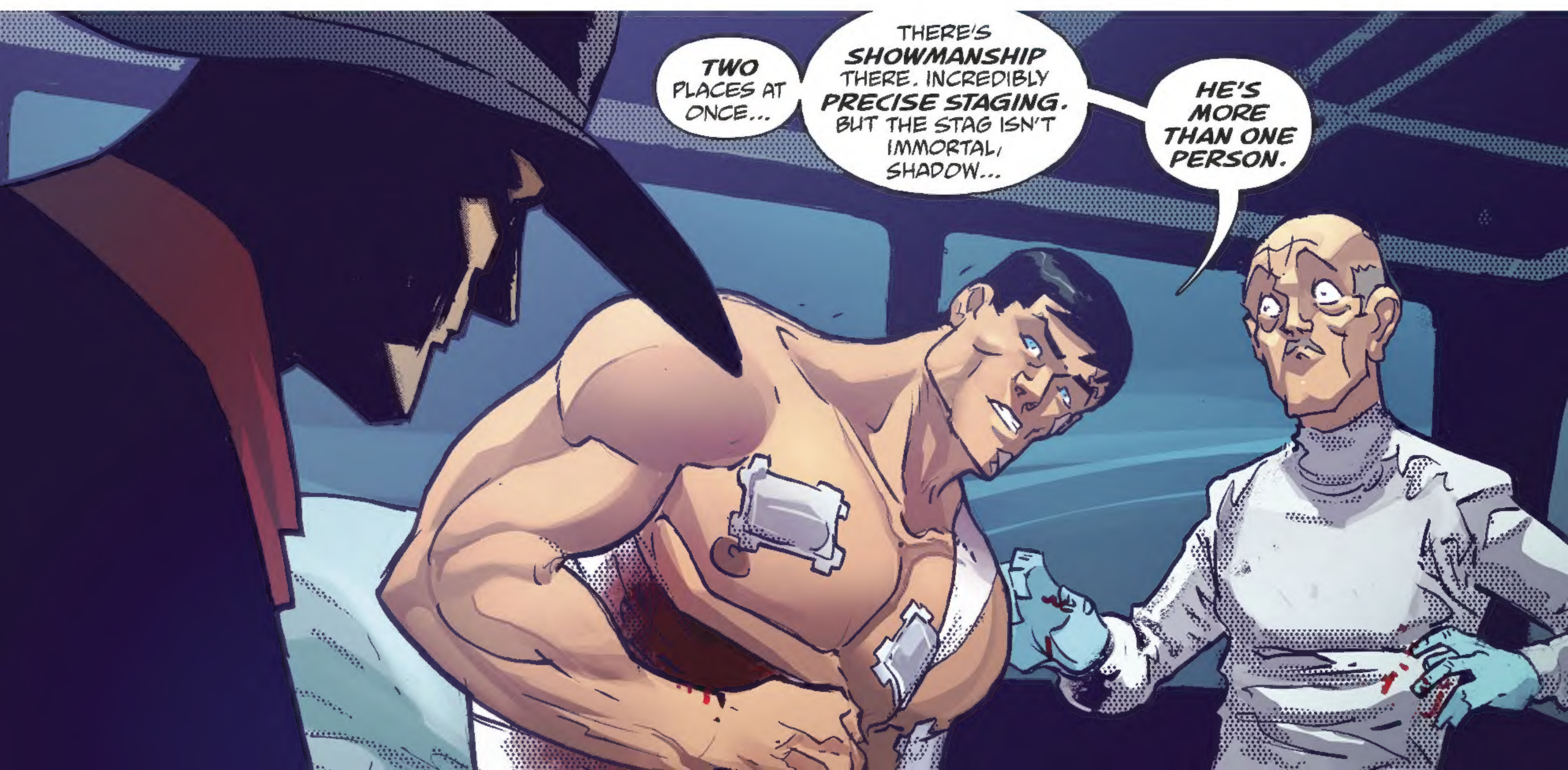
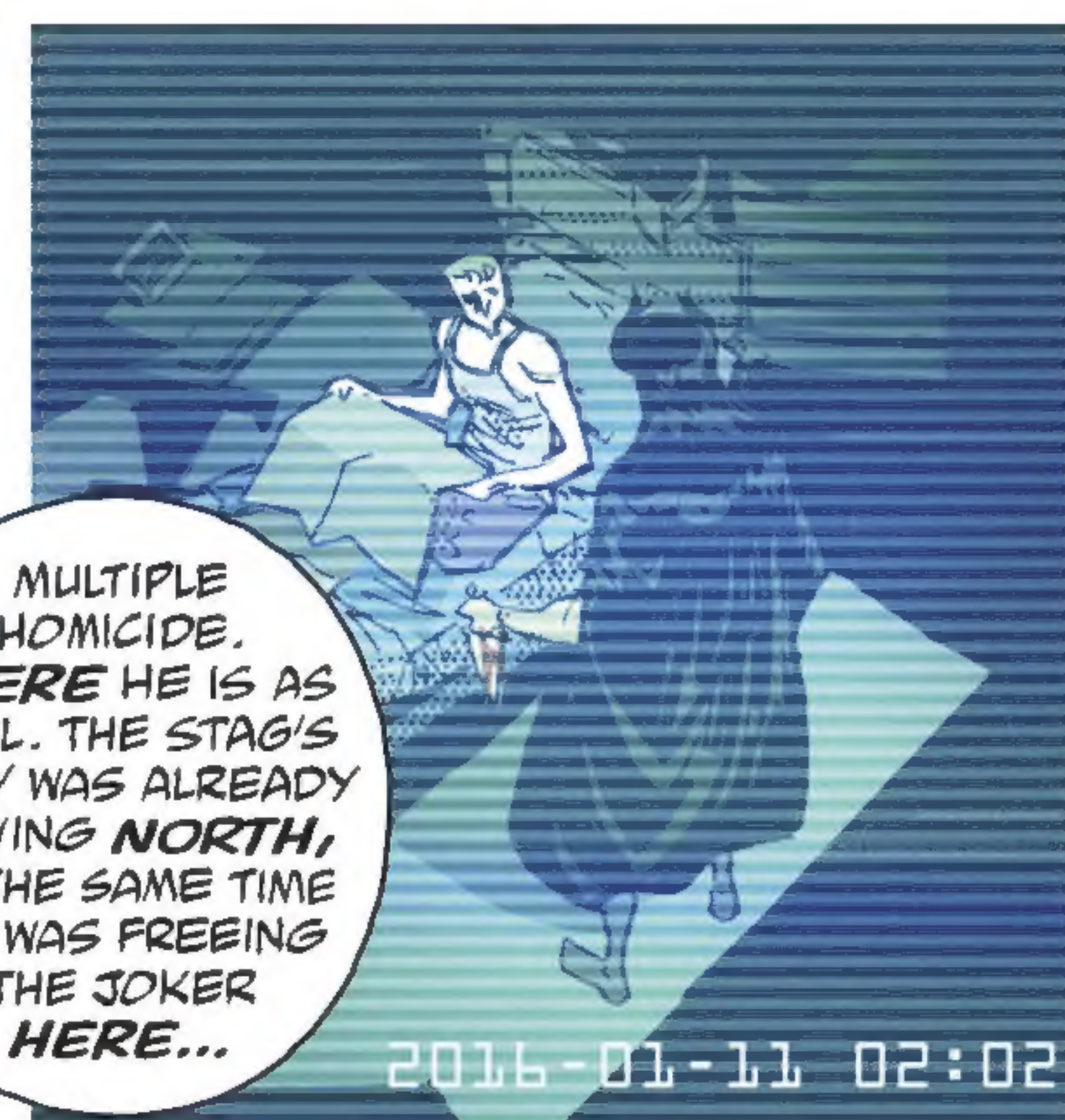
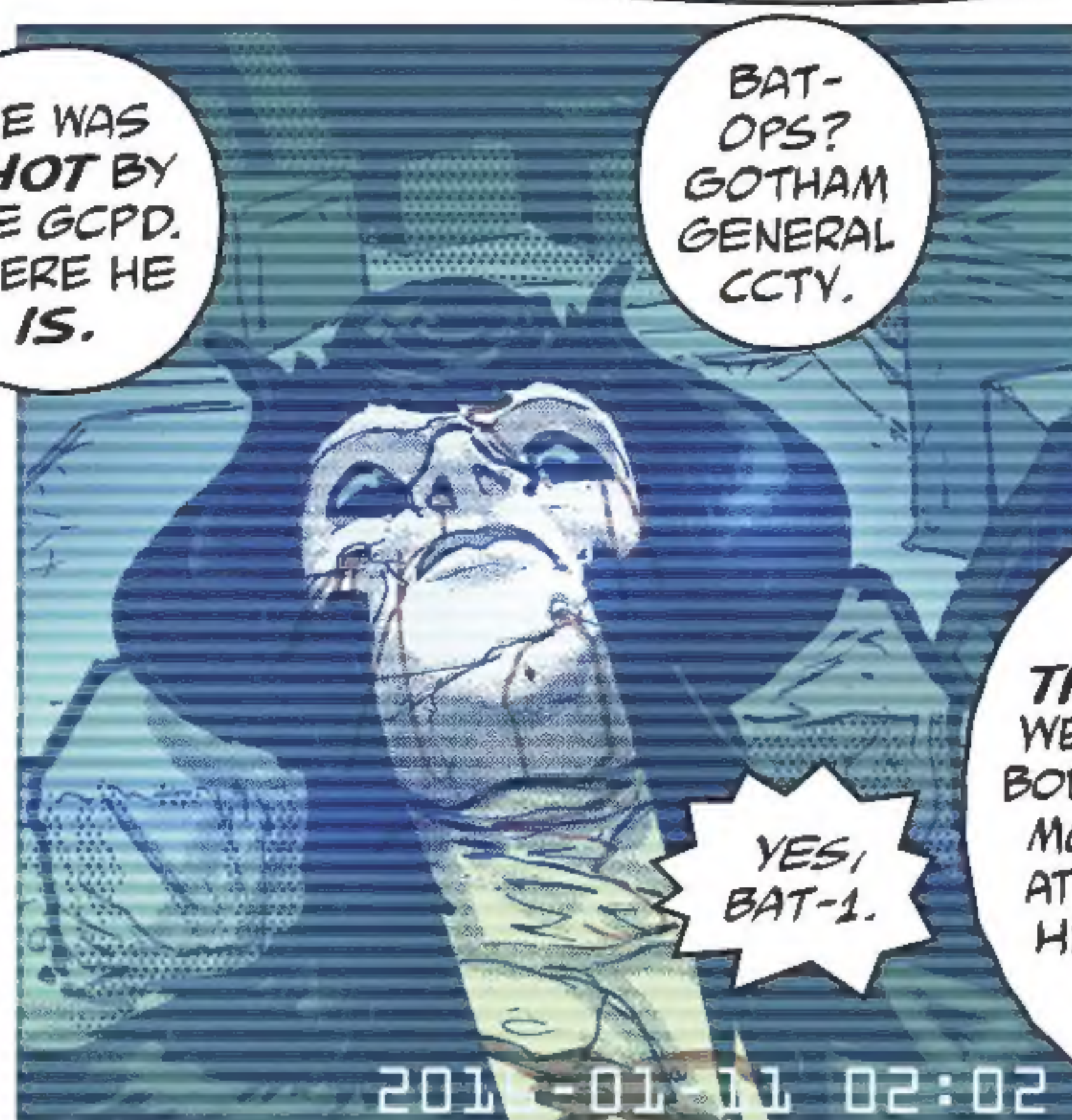
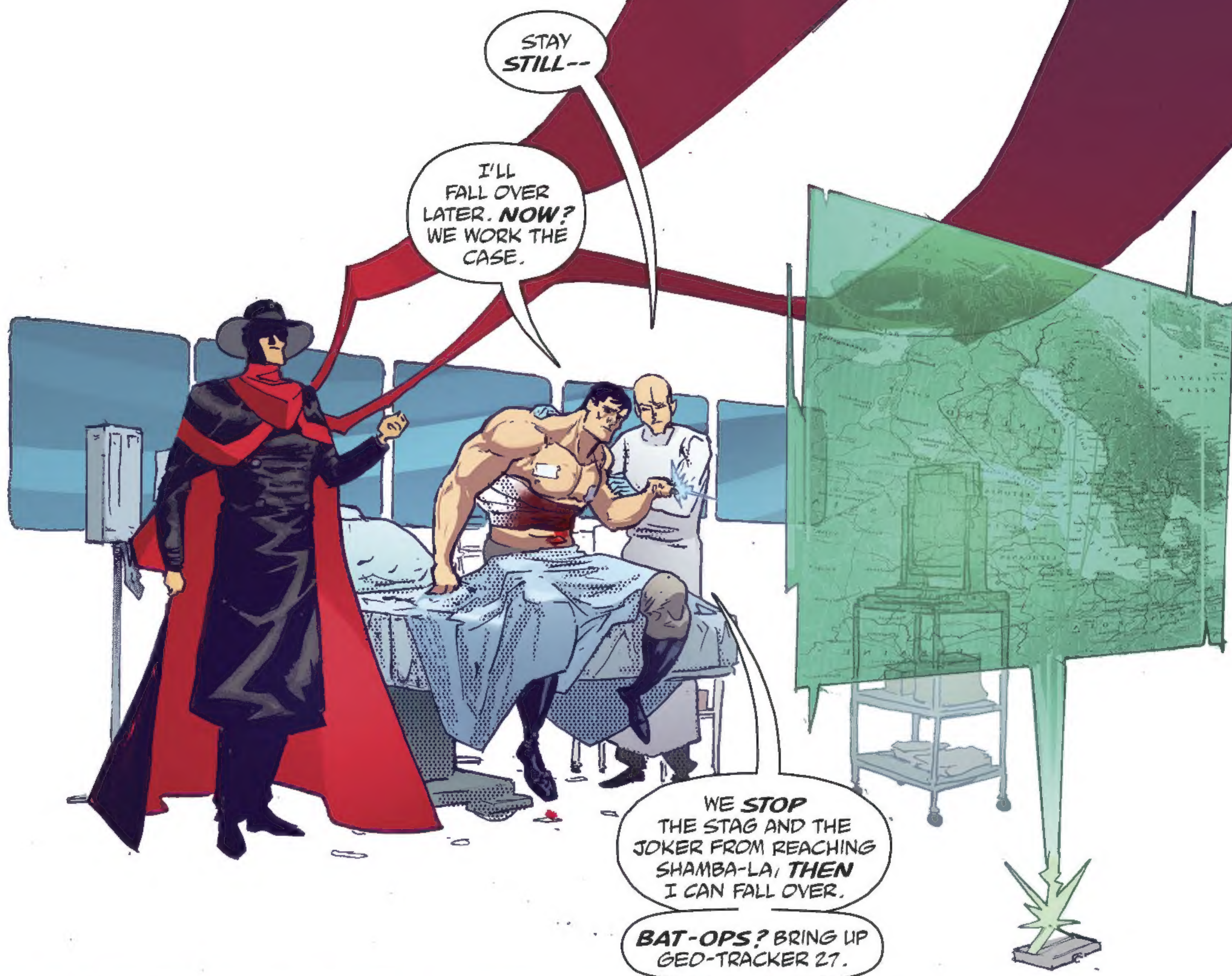
...BATMAN  
IS **DEAD.**



...NOT  
YET.

MASTER  
BRUCE!





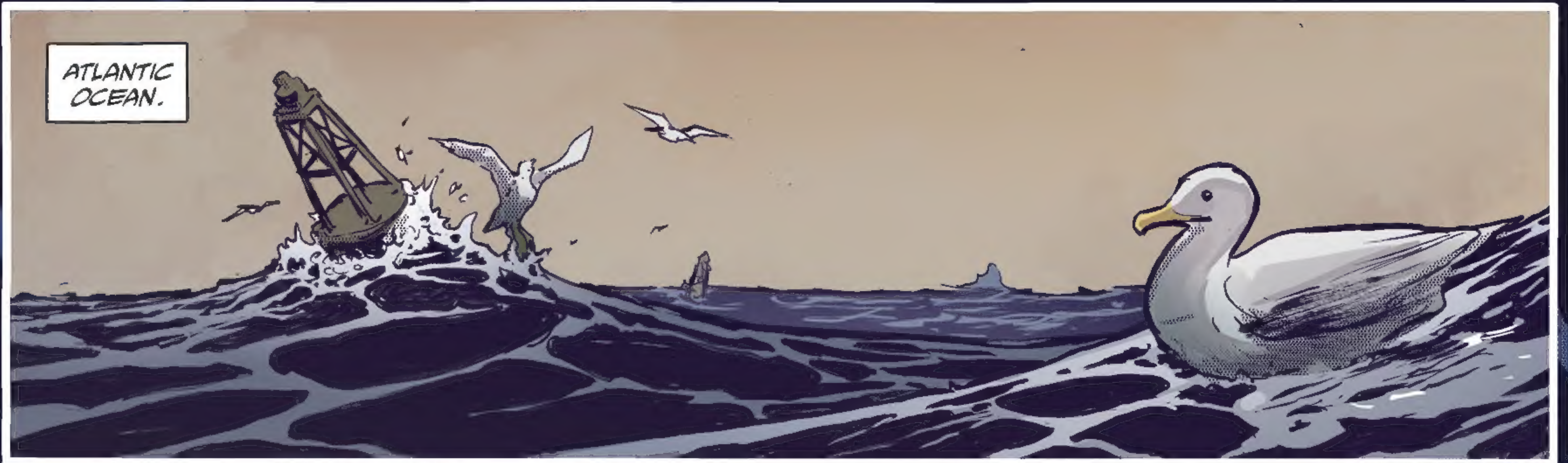




"YOU'VE BEEN  
FIGHTING AN  
ARMY."

EAST EGG.

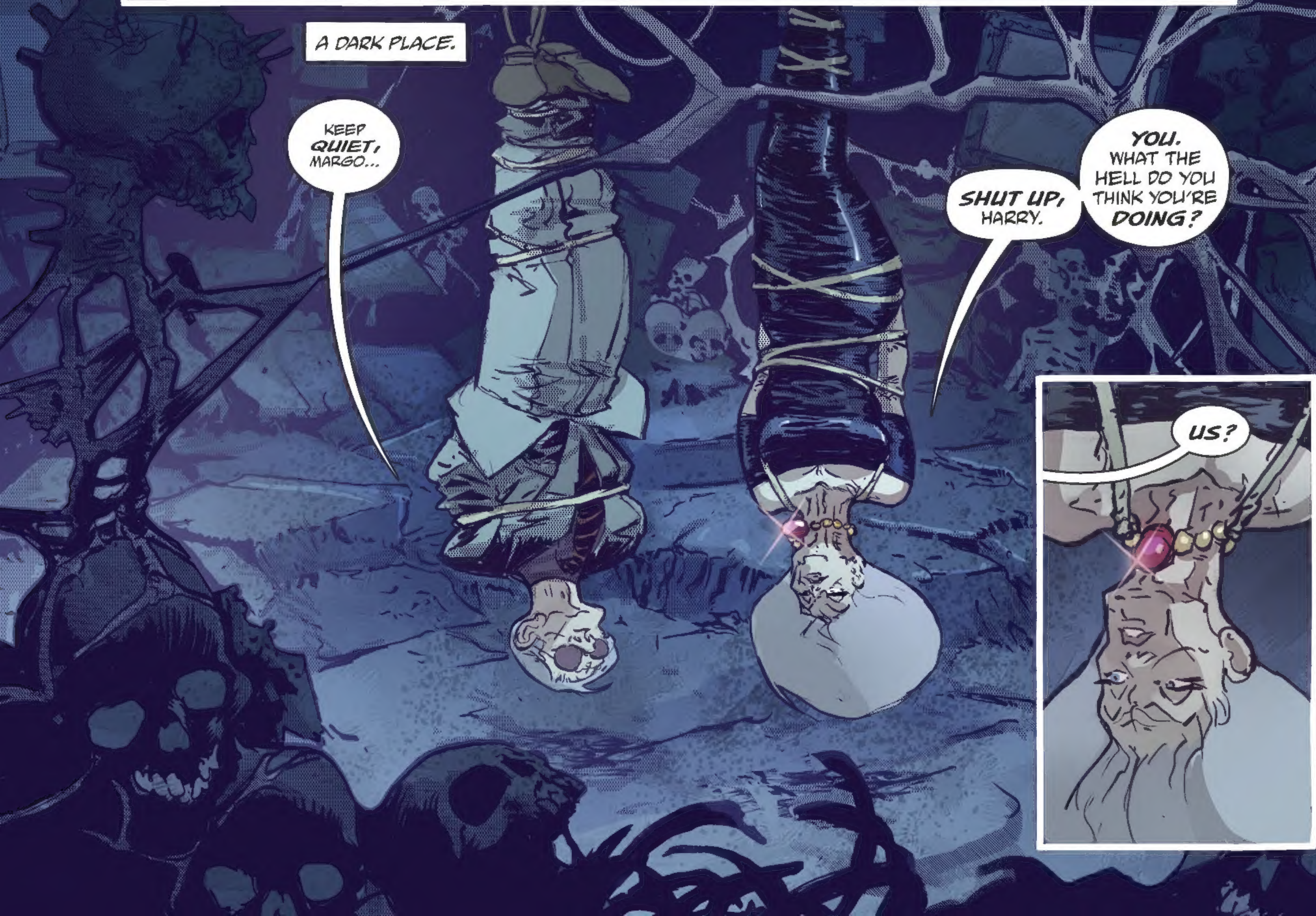
LONG ISLAND,  
NEW YORK.



ATLANTIC  
OCEAN.



FAROE  
ISLANDS.



A DARK PLACE.

KEEP  
QUIET,  
MARGO...

SHUT UP,  
HARRY.

YOU.  
WHAT THE  
HELL DO YOU  
THINK YOU'RE  
DOING?

US?





WE'RE ON  
VACATION.



AND  
YOU?

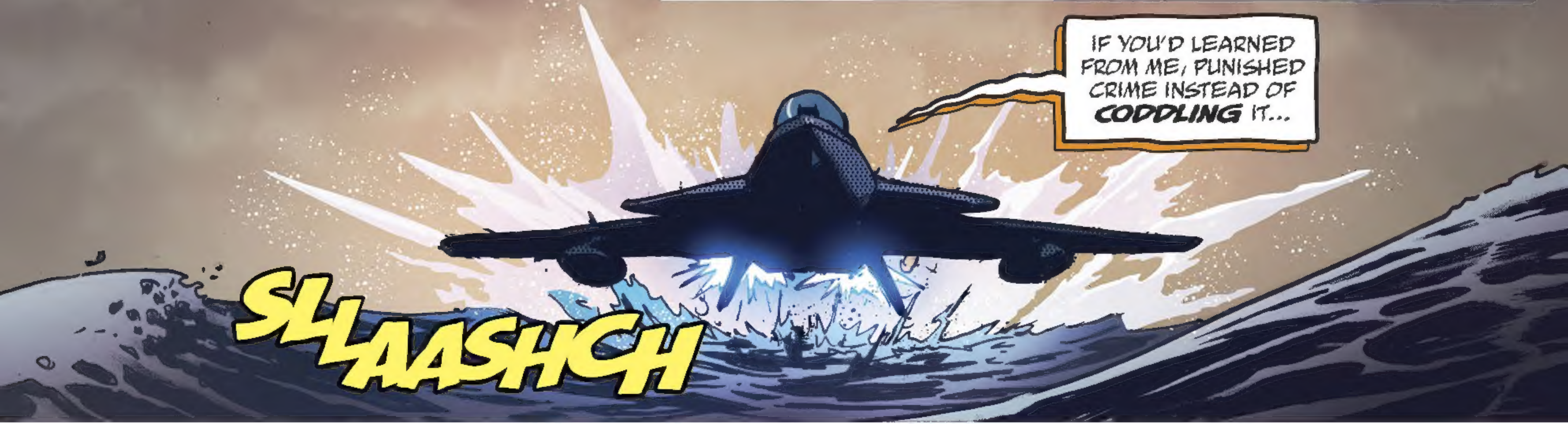
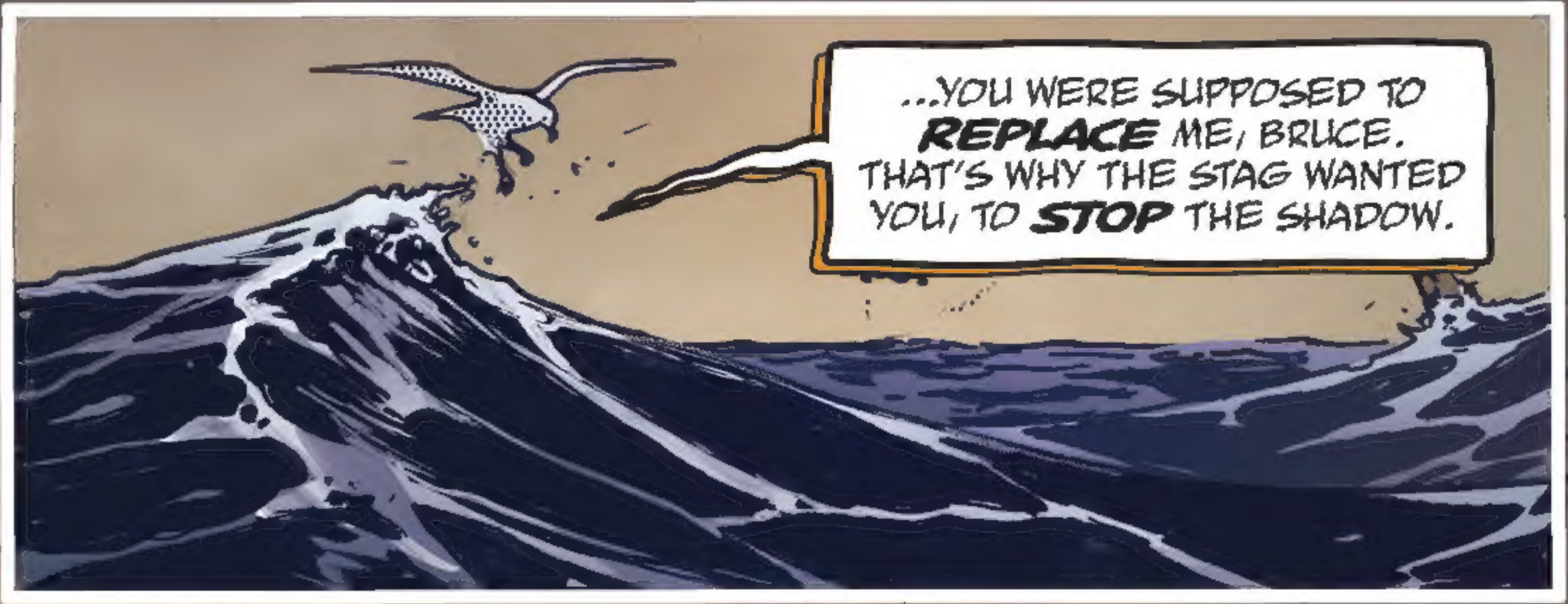
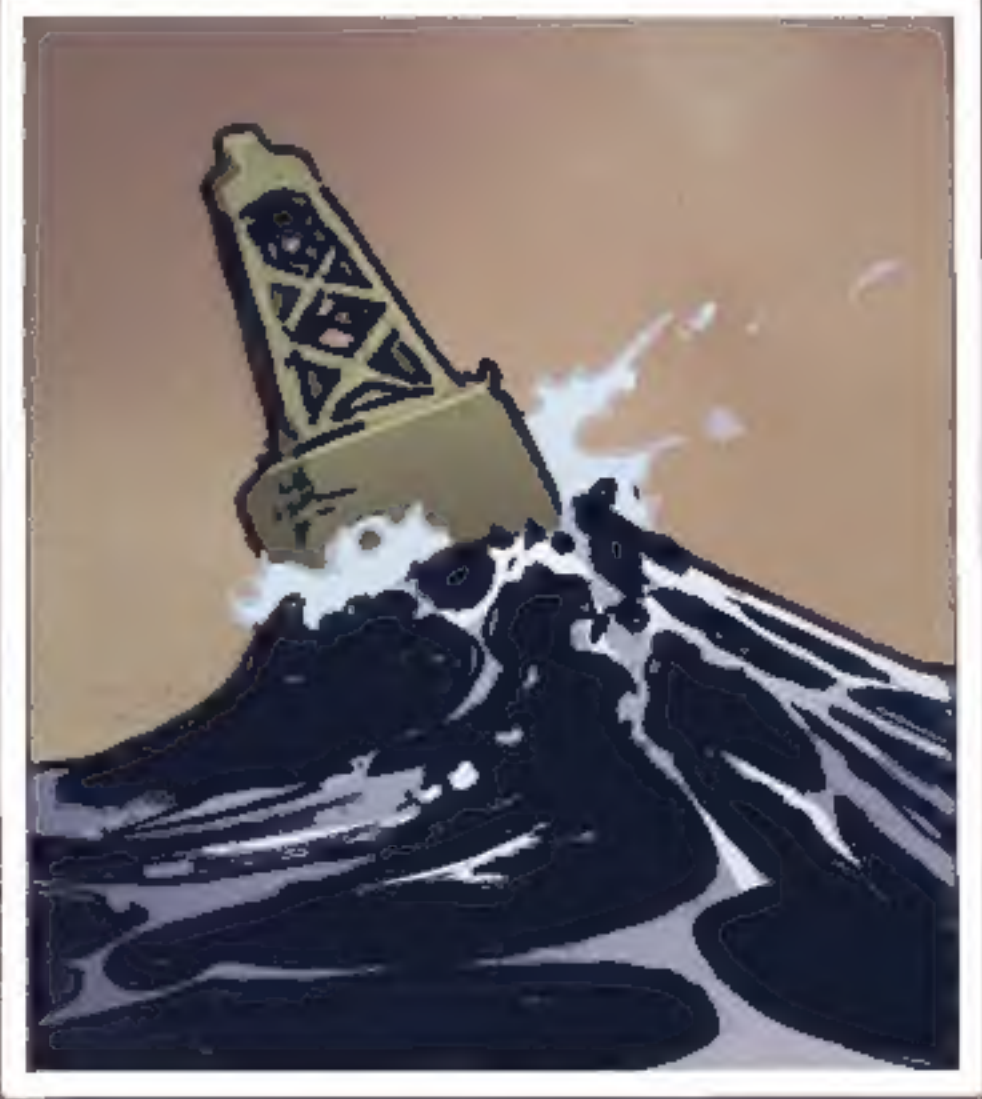


TWO  
WET  
PIÑATAS  
NAMED  
**MARGO**  
AND  
**HARRY.**

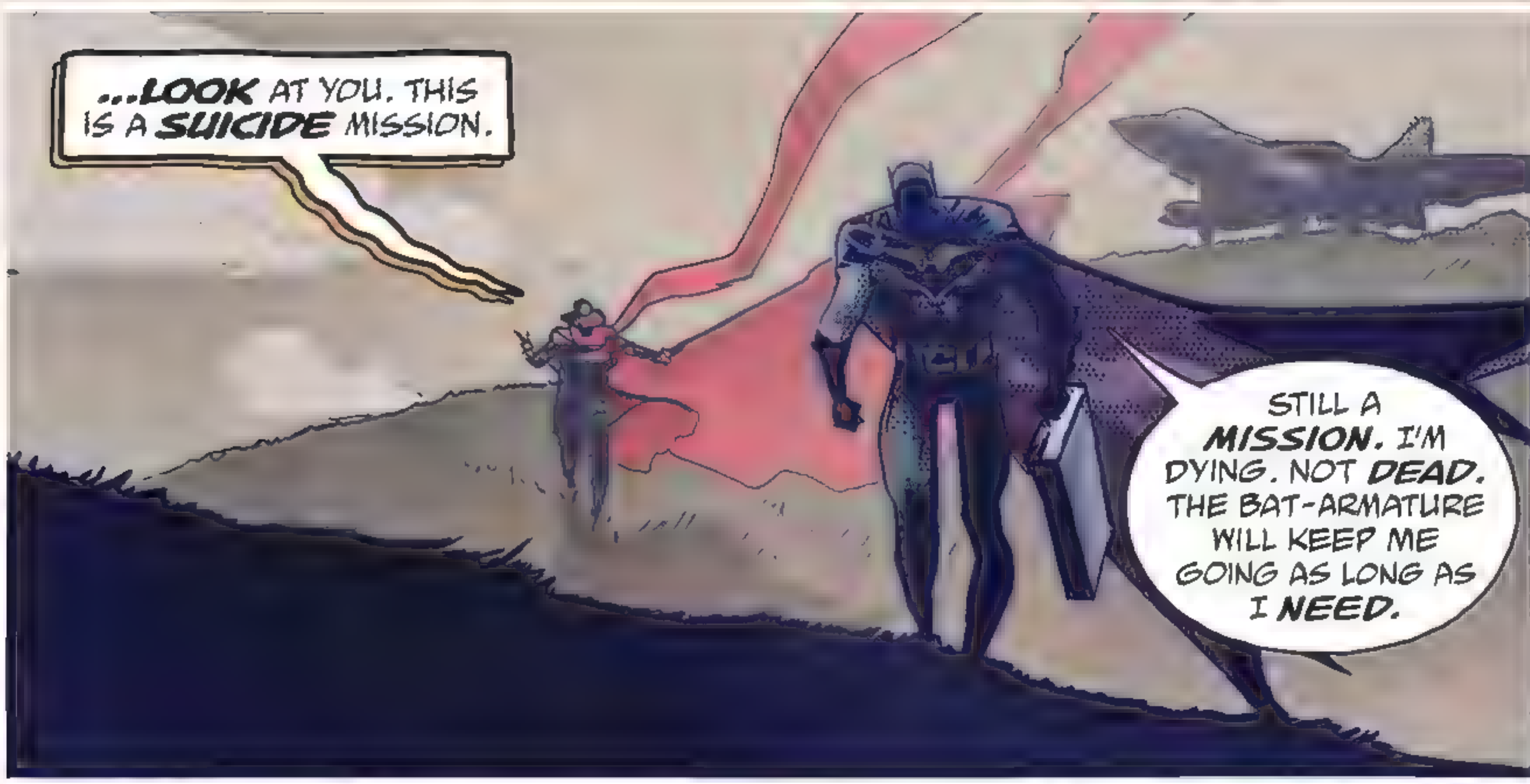


WRIGGLE  
ON, FRIENDS...









...LOOK AT YOU. THIS IS A **SUICIDE** MISSION.

STILL A **MISSION**. I'M DYING. NOT **DEAD**. THE BAT-ARMATURE WILL KEEP ME GOING AS LONG AS I **NEED**.



PENNYWORTH FOUND ONE OF THESE DENS AS A YOUNG MAN. IT NEARLY **BROKE** HIM.

COULDN'T BE WORSE THAN RAISING **ME**.

LET'S GO.




INTO THE MOUTH OF MADNESS...







LOOK AT THE WALLS---  
SOMETHING  
LIVES HERE.  
AND HAS FOR  
A WHILE.




IT'S A  
STORY. THE  
**STAG'S**  
STORY.



DESCENDED  
FROM THE  
FIRST KILLER.  
**IMMORTAL.**




THE STAG'S  
DAGGERS  
COME FROM THE  
SAME CHTHONIC  
PLACE.




I'VE  
DISSECTED  
THEM.

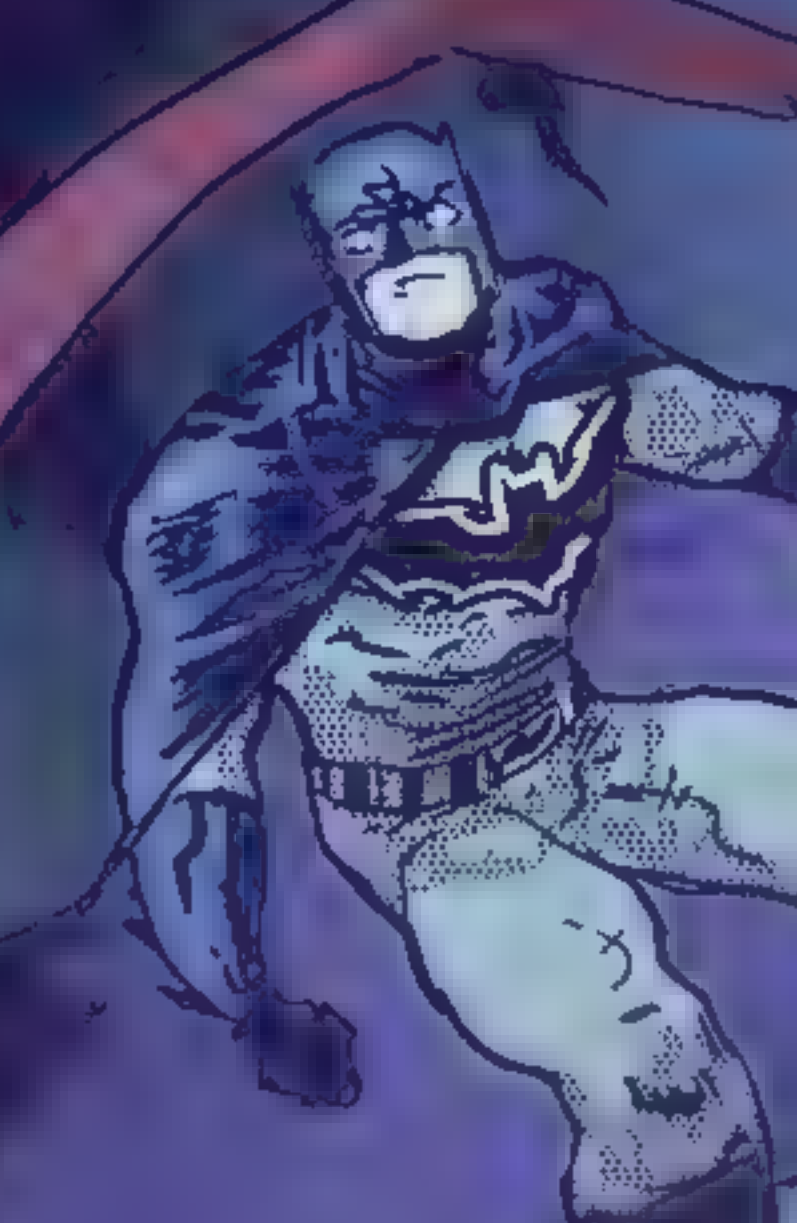
THEIR CORE IS LACED  
WITH OCCULT CIRCUITRY  
THAT MARKS EACH KILL  
ON THE STAG'S **SOUL.**




HE USES THEM FOR **ONE**  
PURPOSE---THE **DEATHS**  
OF FIVE THOUSAND AND  
FORTY OF THE WORLD'S BEST.



THE JOKER LIVES, THANKS TO YOUR  
CHILDISH VIEWS. AND YOU, **DEAD** ON  
YOUR FEET, ARE THE **FINAL VICTIM.**



IF YOU HAD  
**IMPRISONED** THE  
STAG, **INTERROGATED**  
HIM INSTEAD OF KILLING HIM  
AGAIN AND AGAIN FOR DECADES,  
IF YOUR JUSTICE WASN'T  
SO SIMPLE...



YOU'D HAVE  
SEEN HE'S  
**NOT IMMORTAL.**  
JUST **MANY**  
**MORTALS.**

YOU  
**CREATED**  
THE STAG AS MUCH  
AS YOU FOUGHT HIM.  
YOU'VE KILLED HIM  
**ENOUGH.**



"TONIGHT  
WE *STOP*  
HIM."

ME? I  
LOVE THIS  
GUY. I GET HIM.  
AND HE GETS  
ME.

I CAN  
NEVER LOOK AT  
SOMETHING FOR TOO  
LONG, BUT HE'S GOT  
**FOCUS**. BEEN WORKING  
ON OPENING THE  
SAME DOOR FOR  
**CENTURIES**.

**THIS**  
DOOR. RIGHT AT  
THE BOTTOM OF THIS  
**DEN**. GUY DUG HIS  
WAY DOWN HIMSELF. BEEN  
DIGGING ALL OVER  
THE PLANET, BUT HE  
**FINALLY** FOUND  
ONE.

**A DOOR  
TO SHAMBA-LA.**  
THE PLACE WHERE ALL  
MY **BEST** IDEAS COME  
FROM, WHERE THE  
**SHADOW** GOT HIS  
POWER--AND **WE** CAN  
GET IT, TOO.

YOU'D CALL IT **EVIL**. THAT'S WHY YOU'RE HERE--HOLDOUTS FROM THE OLD WAY OF THINKING. STAG HAS FOCUS, YEAH, BUT NO SENSE OF **DRAMA**.

WHEN YOU HAVE A  
SHADOW, OR A BATMAN, SOMEONE  
YOU'VE DEVOTED TIME TO, YOU DON'T  
JUST ABANDON THEM. YOU GIVE THEM  
SOMETHING TO **REMEMBER** YOU BY...

LIKE THE INNARDS  
OF THEIR **ONLY**  
**LIVING**  
FRIENDS.

**THAT'S  
YOUR PLAN?  
THEN YOU'RE AN  
IDIOT.**

THE  
SHADOW DOESN'T  
**CARE** ABOUT US. HE'S  
BARELY **HUMAN** ANYMORE.  
HE **FORGOT** HOW TO BE  
LONG AGO--THANKS TO  
HIS WAR, HIS WAR  
AGAINST PEOPLE LIKE  
**YOU.**

THE  
SHADOW DOESN'T  
KNOW **HOW** TO  
CARE.





WRONG  
AGAIN,  
MARGO.



MASTER!

...LAMONT.



# CRASH

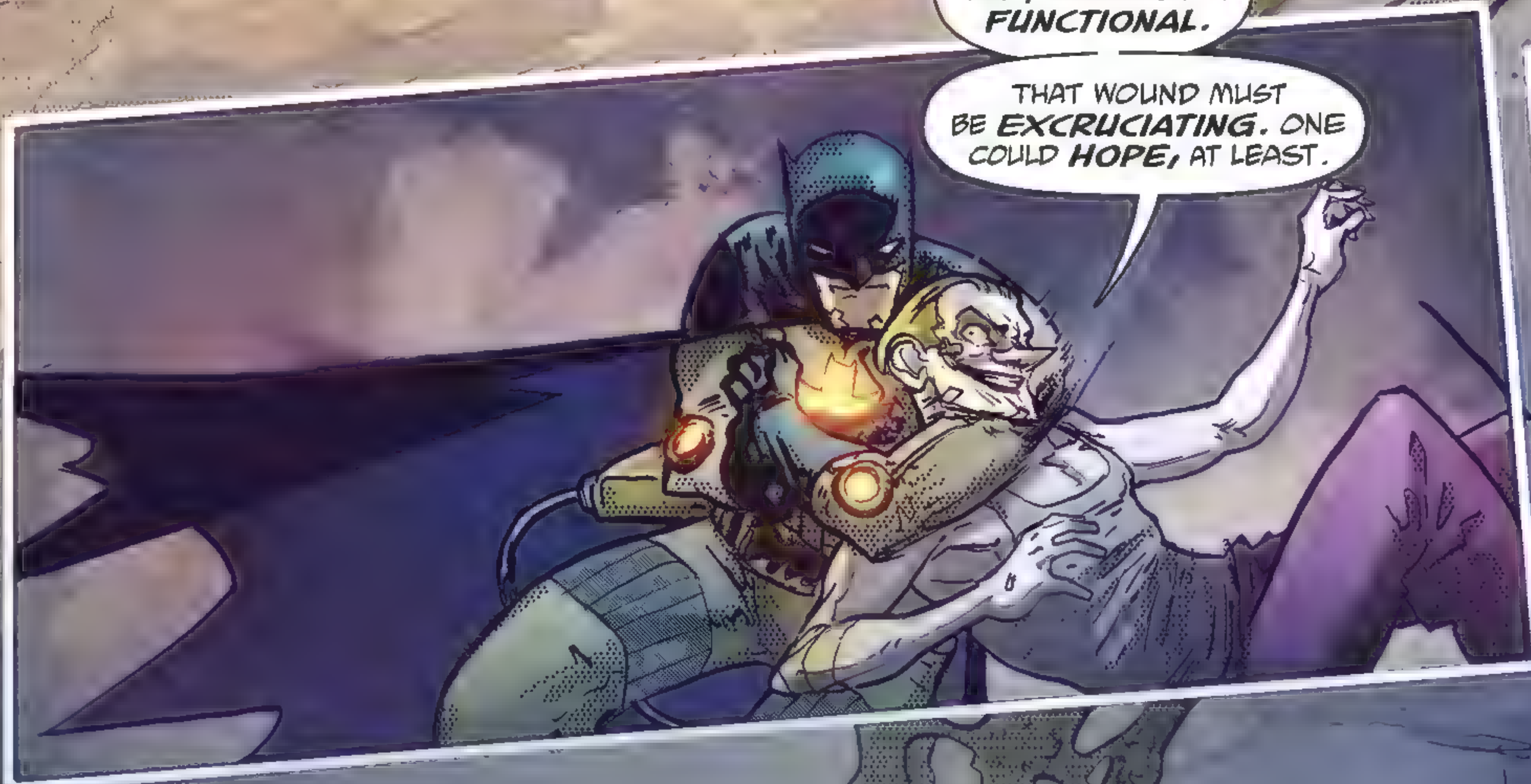
AND...  
**BATMAN?!**

GOOD  
TO SEE YOU  
AGAIN, MR.  
VINCENT.

LOOK AT  
YOU! YOU'RE SO...  
**FUNCTIONAL.**

THAT WOUND MUST  
BE **EXCRUCIATING**. ONE  
COULD **HOPE**, AT LEAST.

WANT  
ME TO  
**SHOW**  
YOU?



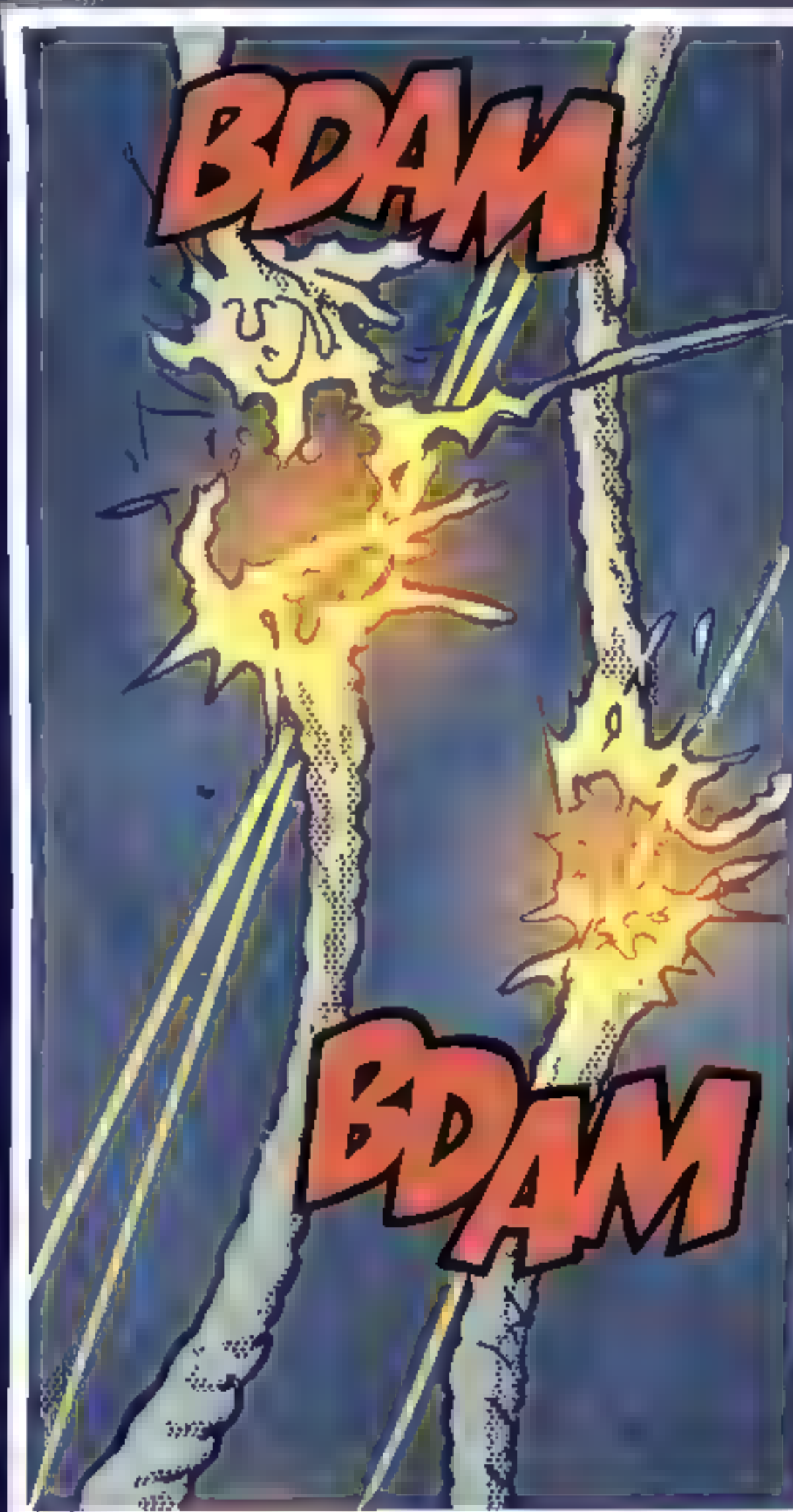




DID YOU THINK I WOULDN'T  
**FIND** YOU, STAG? DID YOU  
**THINK** I'D LET YOU GO?

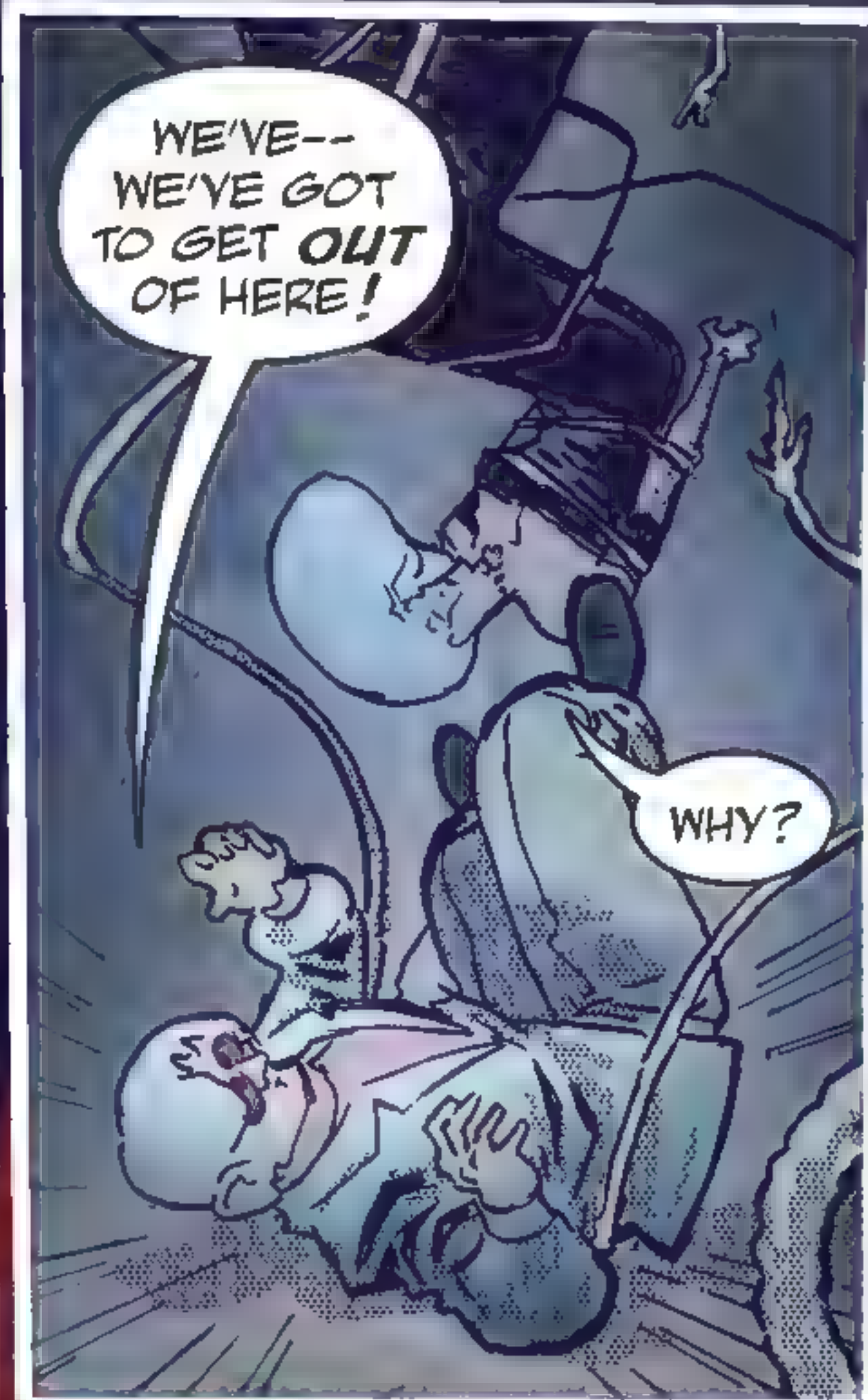


THAT KEY MEANS **NOTHING**. YOU'LL  
**NEVER** SET FOOT IN SHAMBA-LA.



**BDAM**

**BDAM**



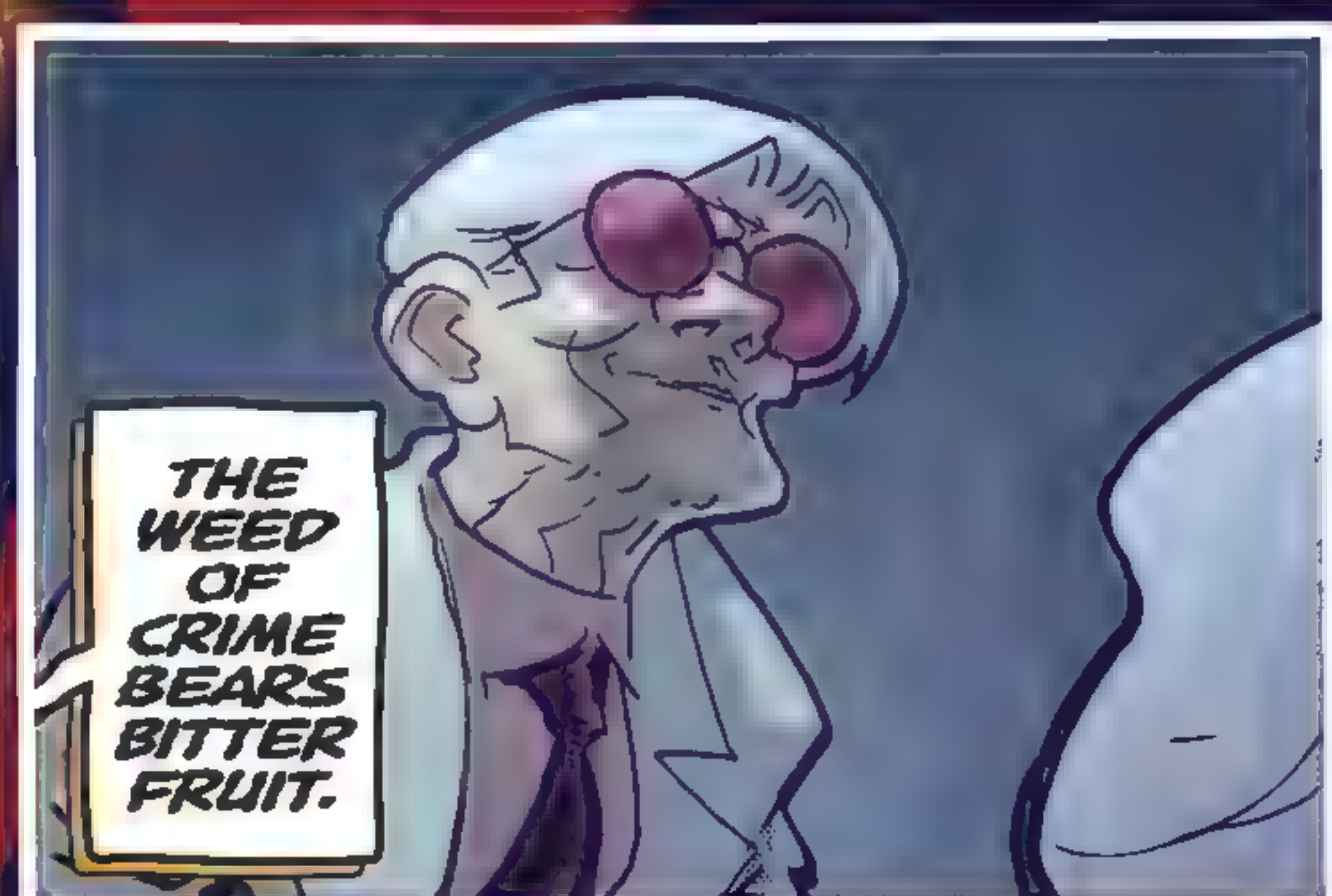
WE'VE--  
WE'VE GOT  
TO GET **OUT**  
OF HERE!

WHY?

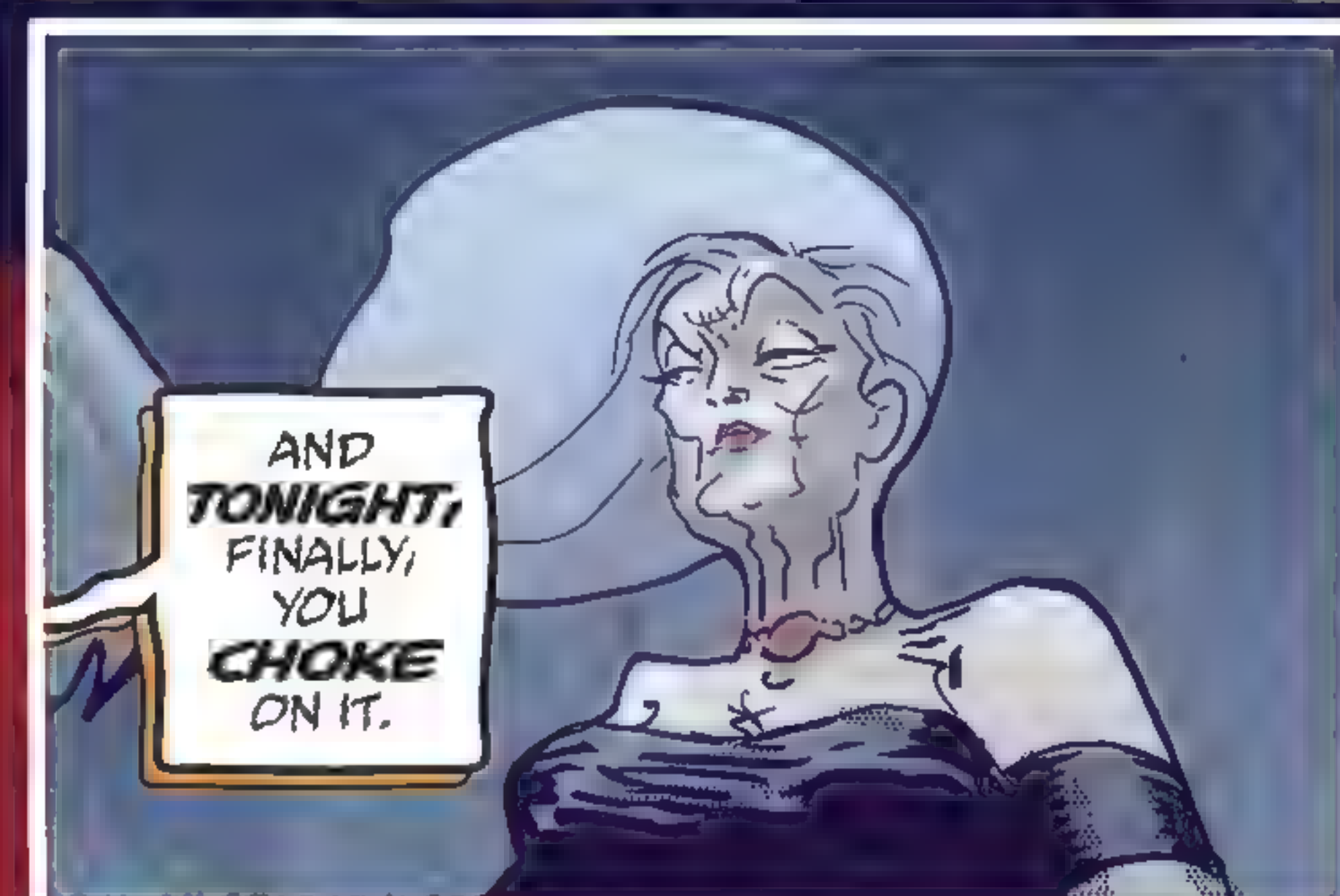


**HGCK!**

YOU CAN **FIGHT**,  
STAG. BUT YOU  
CANNOT ESCAPE  
THE **TRUTH...**



THE  
WEED  
OF  
CRIME  
BEARS  
BITTER  
FRUIT.



AND  
TONIGHT,  
FINALLY,  
YOU  
**CHOK**  
ON IT.





OH.

HEY.



DON'T YOU SEE WHAT THIS IS, JOKER?



ANCIENT DARK ARTS UP FOR GRABS? YOU ANGRY WE DIDN'T BRING ENOUGH FOR EVERY-BODY?



IT'S AN ACT.



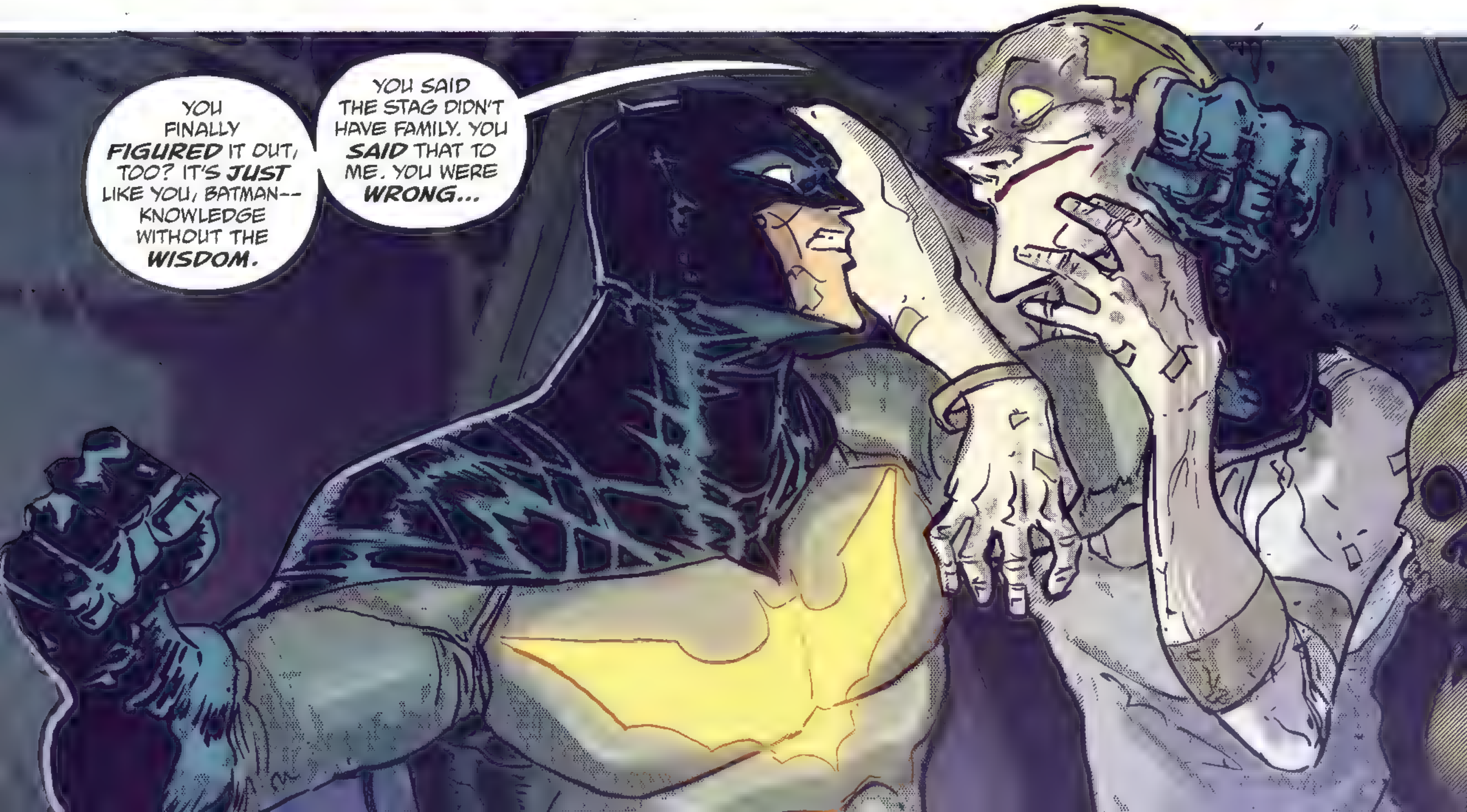
THE STAG IS A LIAR.



HE'S BEEN WORKING YOU FROM THE START TO GET TO ME.



HE'S NOT IMMORTAL, JOKER.



YOU FINALLY FIGURED IT OUT, TOO? IT'S JUST LIKE YOU, BATMAN-- KNOWLEDGE WITHOUT THE WISDOM.

YOU SAID THE STAG DIDN'T HAVE FAMILY. YOU SAID THAT TO ME. YOU WERE WRONG...





I AM AN  
HONEST  
SIGNAL.

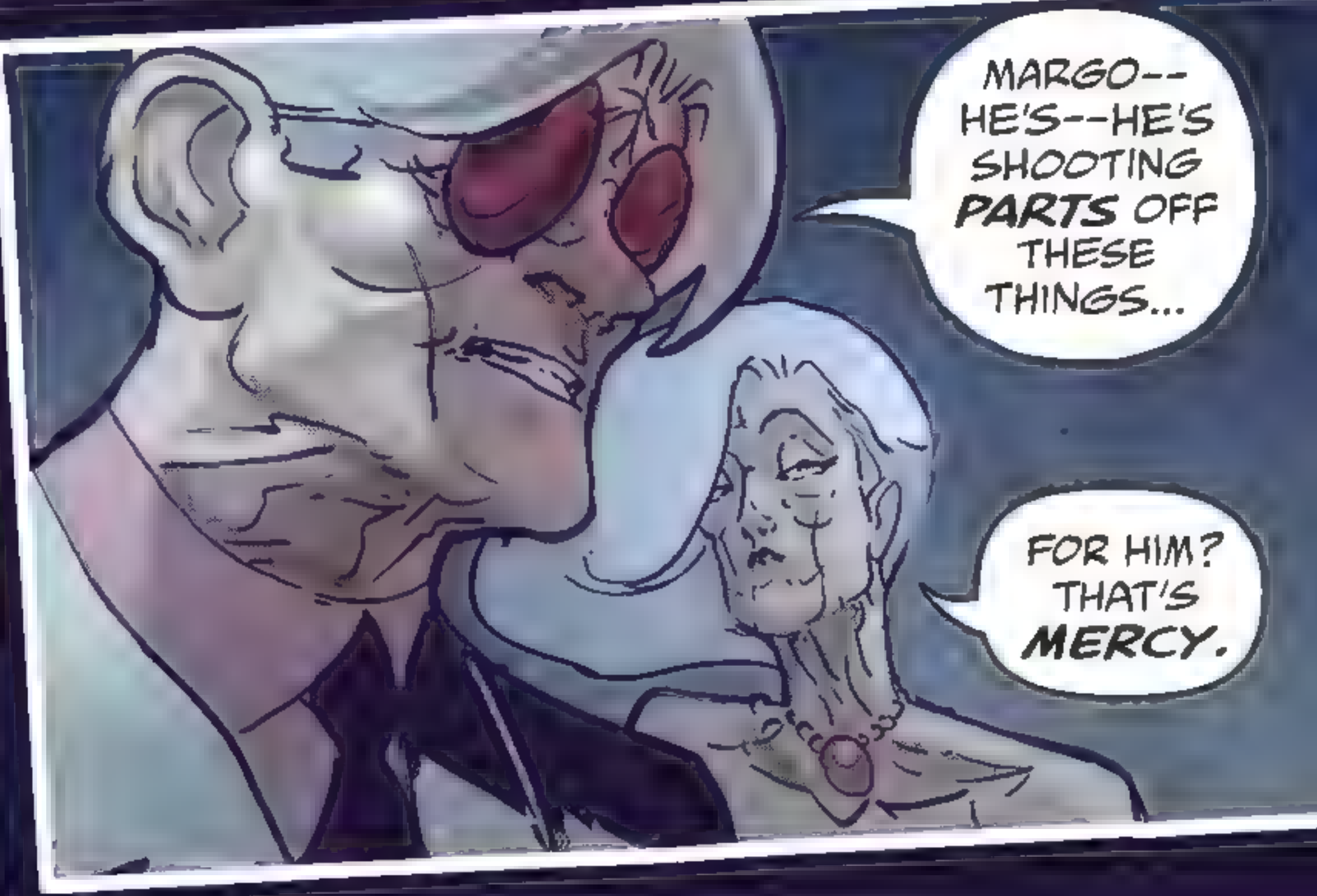
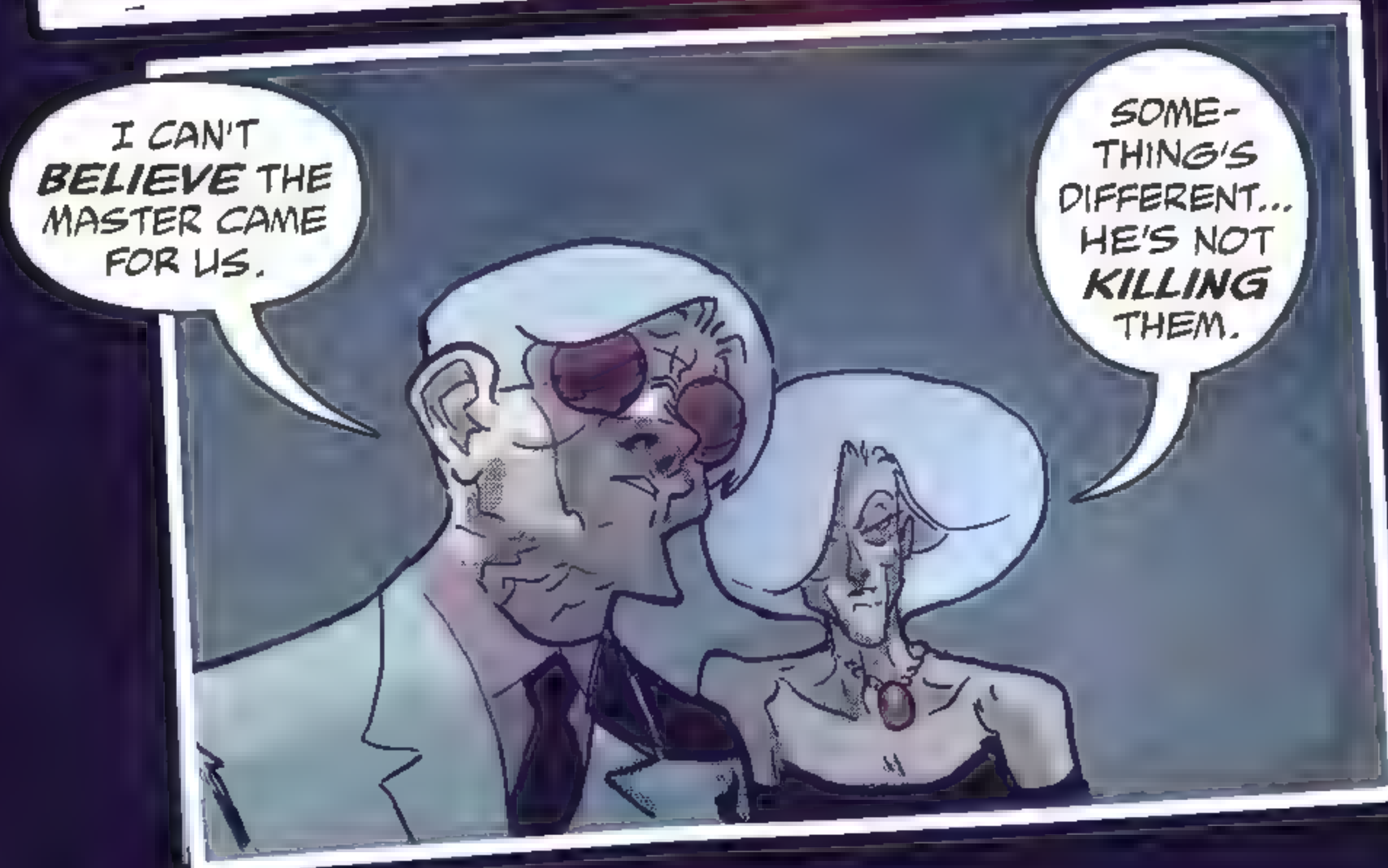
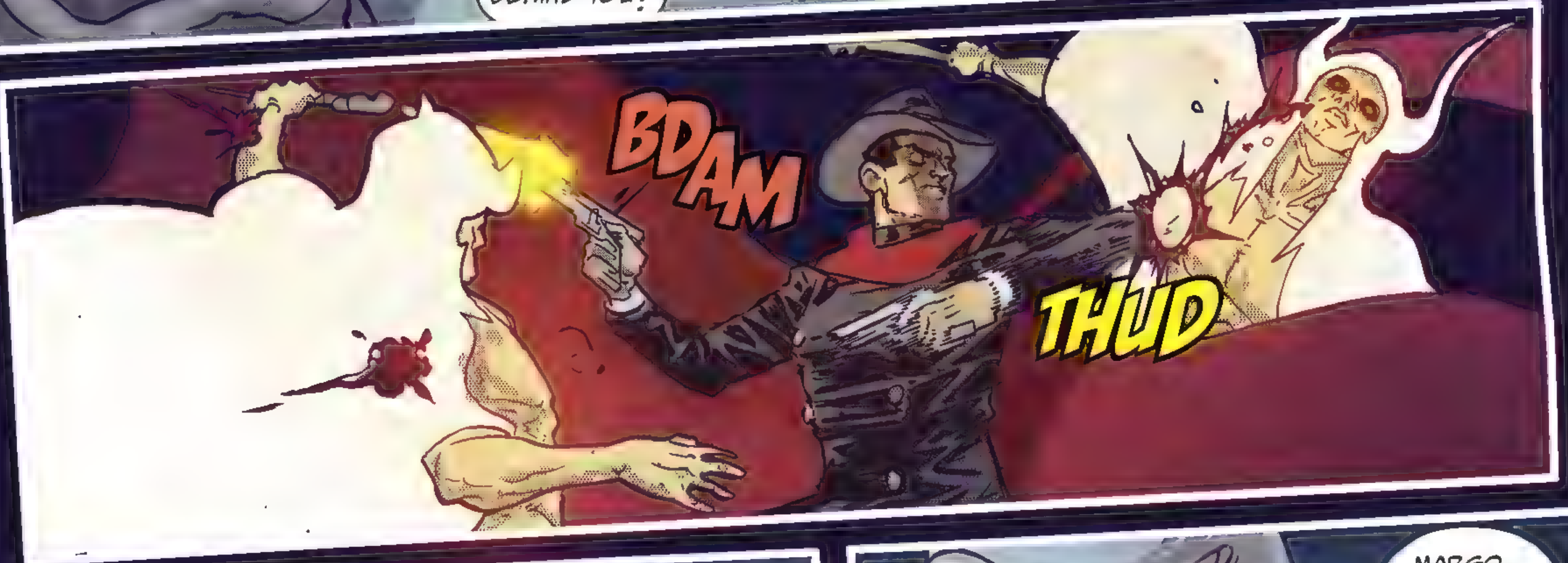
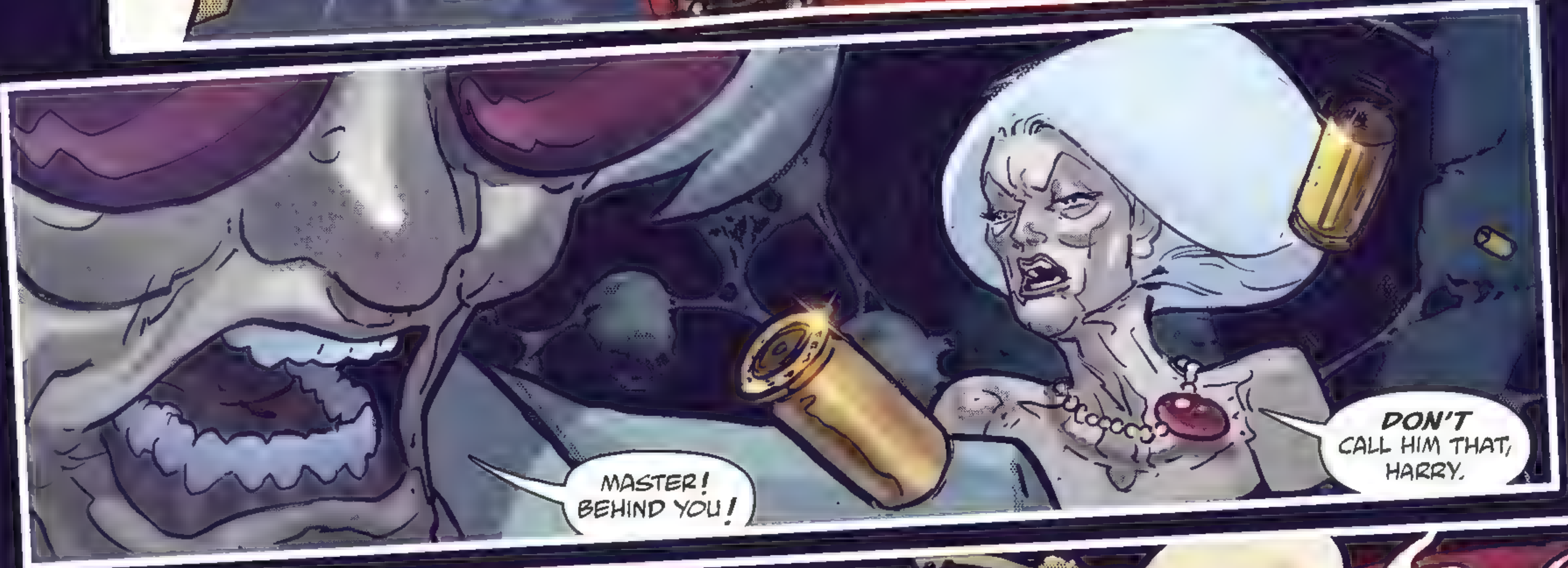
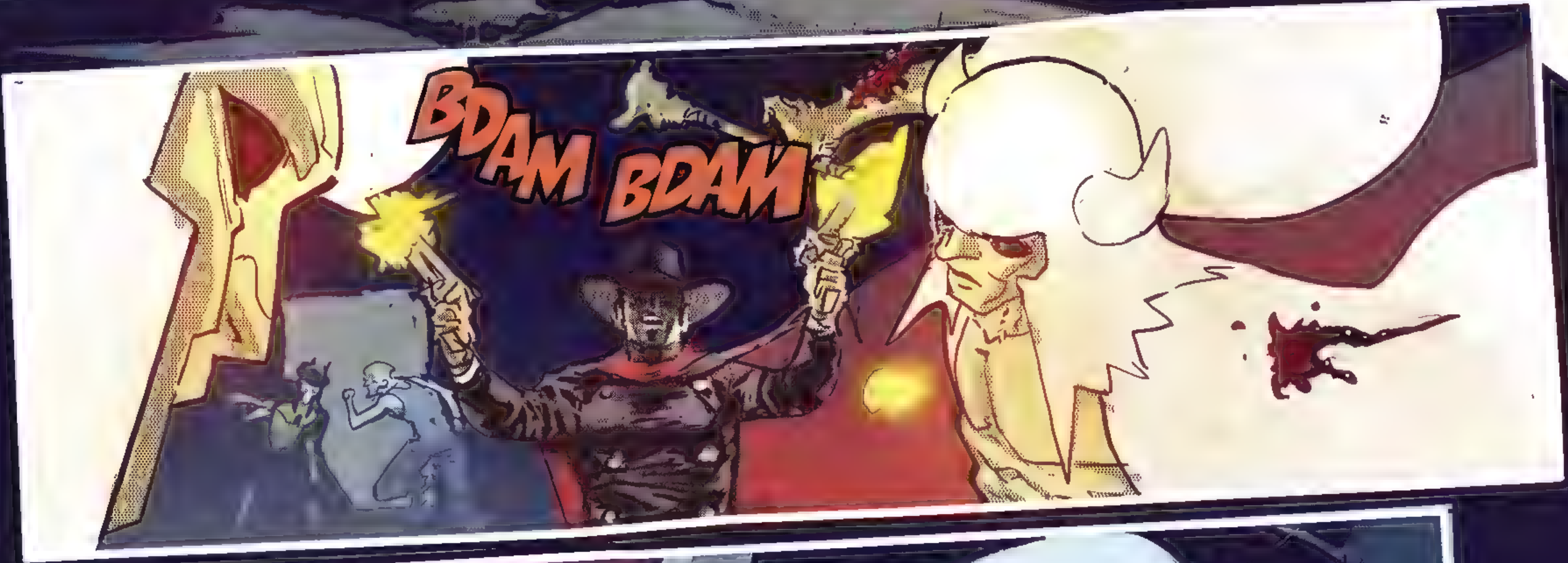
I AM AN  
HONEST  
SIGNAL!

THAT'S  
THE **ONLY**  
THING HE'S  
GOT.

I AM AN  
HONEST  
SIGNAL.

I AM AN  
HONEST  
SIGNAL!









HHN!



NMGK!



KRAAK



HNRAGH

BATMAN!



STAG AND JOKER ARE GONE! WE NEED TO END THIS!

...RIGHT WITH YOU.



"THEY MUST  
NOT BREACH  
THAT  
**DOOR!**"



SO.

WE  
OPENING  
THIS THING  
OR NOT?





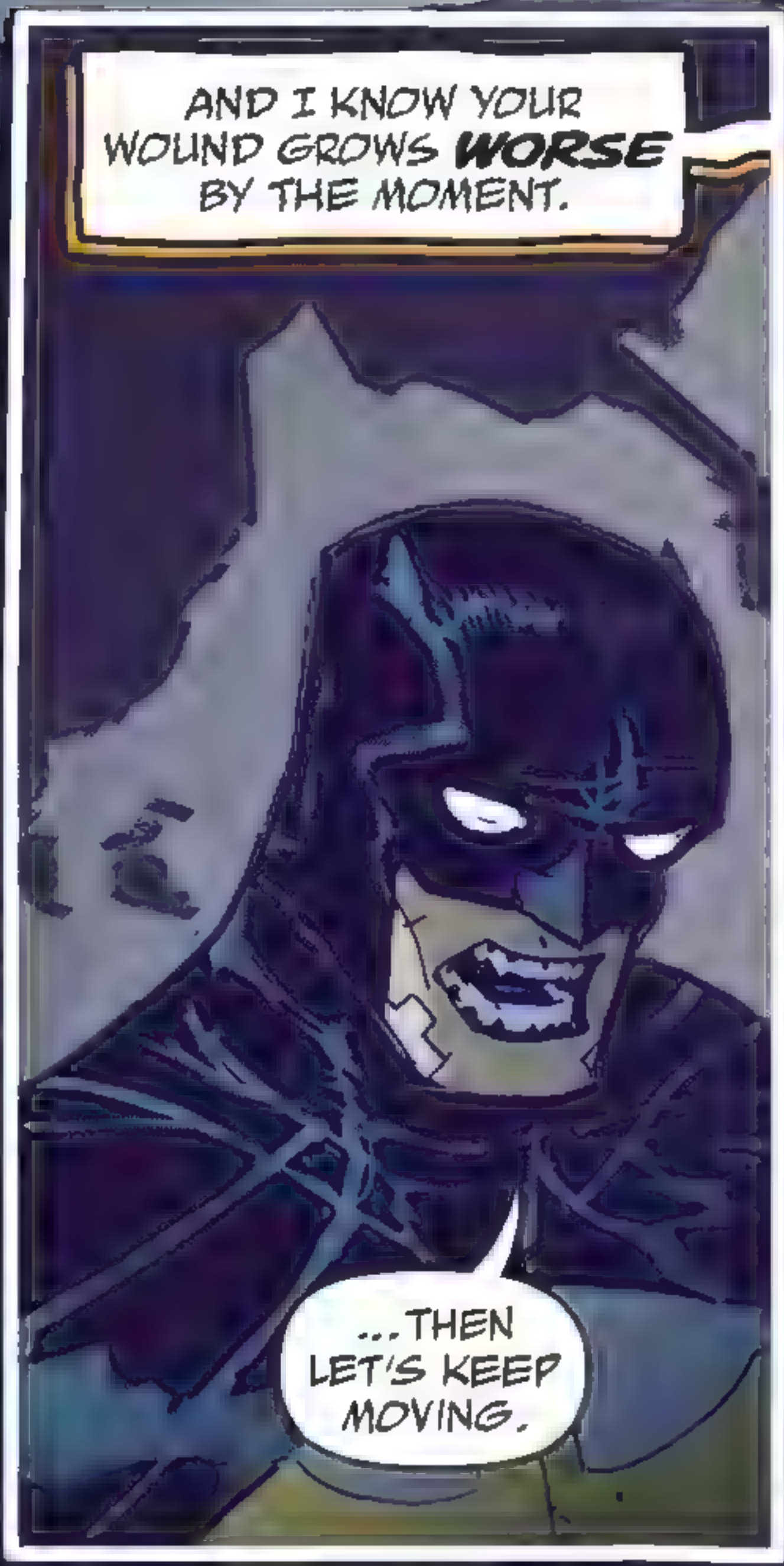


I AM AN HONEST  
SIGN--**NACK!**

THESE  
**PEOPLE...**  
YOU WERE **WRONG**  
ABOUT THE STAG  
FOR TOO LONG,  
SHADOW.

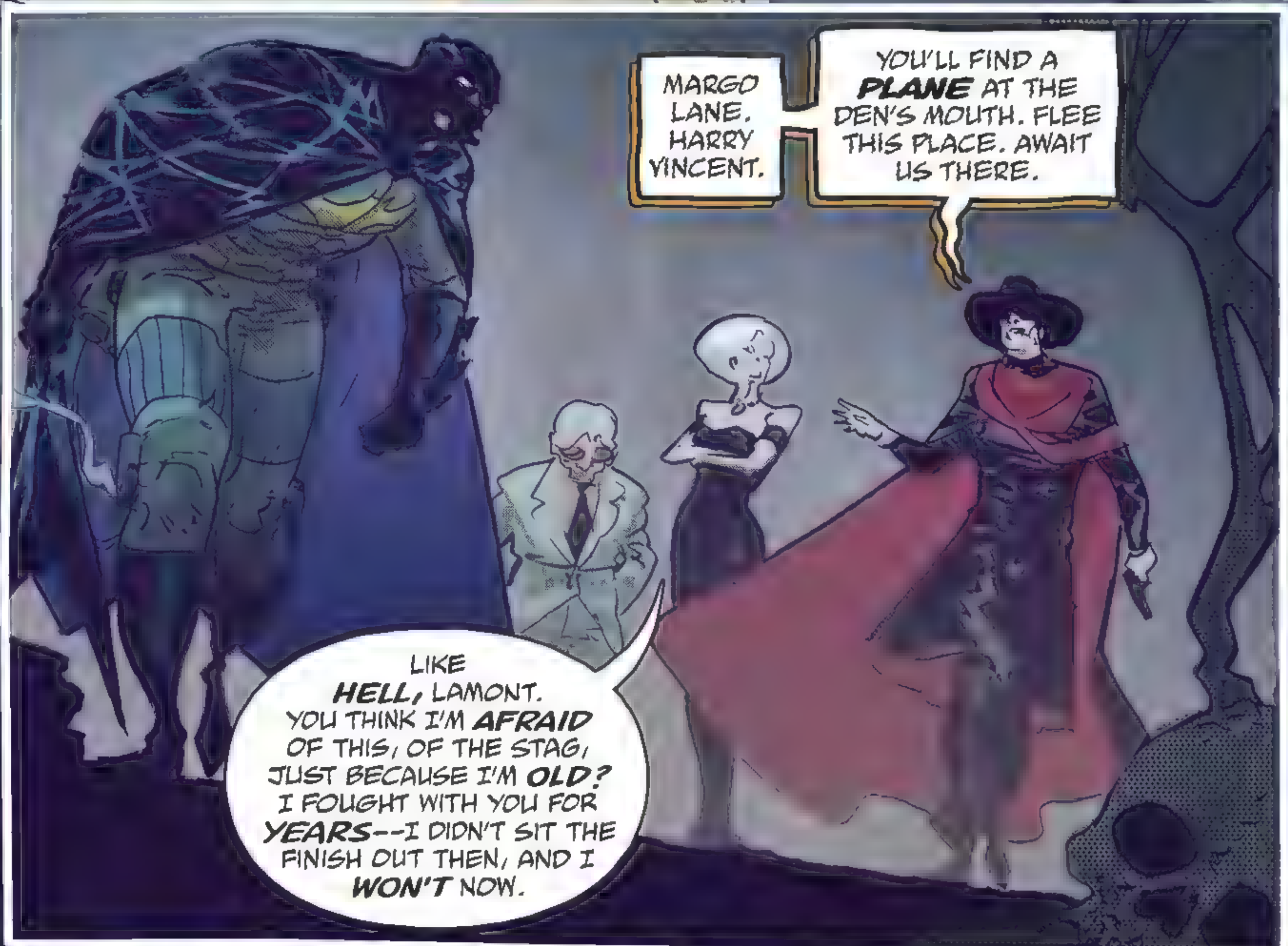
HOW DO  
WE KNOW **ANY**  
OF THIS IS WHAT  
YOU THOUGHT  
IT WAS?

I KNOW STAG  
AND JOKER MUST  
BE **STOPPED**.  
SHAMBA-LA IS  
MEANT TO  
**REFORM** CRUEL  
HEARTS. NOT  
**EMPOWER**  
THEM.



AND I KNOW YOUR  
WOUND GROWS **WORSE**  
BY THE MOMENT.

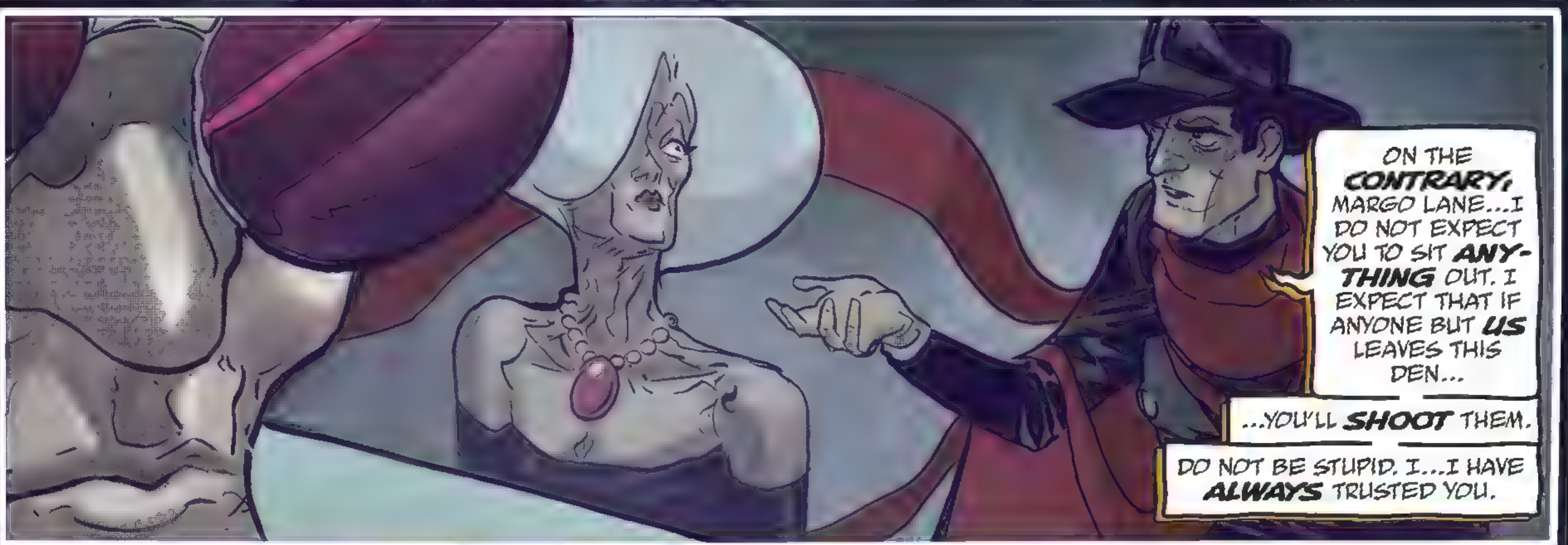
...THEN  
LET'S KEEP  
MOVING.



MARGO  
LANE.  
HARRY  
VINCENT.

YOU'LL FIND A  
**PLANE** AT THE  
DEN'S MOUTH. FLEE  
THIS PLACE. AWAIT  
US THERE.

LIKE  
**HELL**, LAMONT.  
YOU THINK I'M **AFRAID**  
OF THIS, OF THE STAG,  
JUST BECAUSE I'M **OLD**?  
I FOUGHT WITH YOU FOR  
**YEARS**--I DIDN'T SIT THE  
FINISH OUT THEN, AND I  
**WON'T** NOW.



ON THE  
**CONTRARY**,  
MARGO LANE...I  
DO NOT EXPECT  
YOU TO SIT **ANY-**  
**THING** OUT. I  
EXPECT THAT IF  
ANYONE BUT **US**  
LEAVES THIS  
DEN...

...YOU'LL **SHOOT** THEM.

DO NOT BE STUPID. I...I HAVE  
**ALWAYS** TRUSTED YOU.



...SHADOW...

SAVE YOUR STRENGTH, BRUCE. THE FIGHT IS NOT **YET** OVER.

FIGHT'S NEVER OVER...

...PERHAPS **NOT**.

THE **TEACHERS** OF **SHAMBA-LA**... THEY MAY BE ABLE TO **ARREST** YOUR DEATH.

NOT... IMPORTANT... NEED TO FINISH... WHAT WE STARTED...

WHAT **I** STARTED. WHAT I **DID**-- TRAINING YOU TO BE MY PERFECT WEAPON AGAINST THE STAG. AND THE PERFECT **LURE**...

I AM **NOT** A GOOD MAN. I DO NOT **CLAIM** TO BE. I CAN BUT PUNISH **WORSE** MEN THAN MYSELF.

STILL... COULD BE...

THE WEIGHT OF MY MISDEEDS IS A **CRUEL METRIC**. BUT THE TEACHERS OF SHAMBA-LA **SAVED** ME, BRUCE. THEY **CLEANSED** THE ROT WITHIN ME. THEY COULD SAVE **YOU**.

THE STAG MAY HAVE **KILLED** YOU...BUT IF HE OPENS THE DOOR, HE MIGHT ALSO **SAVE** YOU.

...JUST **FINISH** THIS.

TOLD YOU, CRANSTON...IT'S NOT ABOUT ME...OR US. I DON'T...**CARE** WHO YOU REALLY ARE...NOT ANYMORE...

**SHUT UP.** WE'RE ALMOST--





NO.

WE'RE TOO LATE. THE STAG ISN'T **ROBBING** SHAMBA-LA...



# BATMAN/ SHADOW PART FIVE

SCOTT SNYDER &  
STEVE ORLANDO STORY

STEVE ORLANDO SCRIPT RILEY ROSSMO ARTIST

IVAN PLASCENCIA COLORS  
CLEM ROBINS LETTERS  
RILEY ROSSMO COVER

FRANCESCO MATTINA,  
TIM SALE & BRENNAN WAGNER  
VARIANT COVERS

DAVE WIELGOSZ MARK DOYLE  
ASST. EDITOR EDITOR

BATMAN CREATED BY  
BOB KANE WITH BILL FINGER

HE'S **BURNING**  
IT TO THE GROUND.



**NEXT: THE PROMISED  
LAND ABLAZE**



DC UNIVERSE REBIRTH



WHO IS WONDER WOMAN'S BROTHER?



TM & © DC Comics.

# WONDER WOMAN

## CHILDREN OF THE GODS

THE NEW STORY LINE STARTS IN ISSUE #31!

WRITTEN BY JAMES ROBINSON

ART BY CARLO PAGULAYAN & EMANUELA LUPACCHINO

SEPT





# ACTION COMICS "THE OZ EFFECT"

AN INTERVIEW WITH WRITER DAN JURGENS

Mr. Oz has been manipulating events and heroes from the shadows even before the pages of the DC Universe Rebirth Special. Now it's time for him to step out of the shadows in THE OZ EFFECT, a 5-part story (featuring sensational lenticular covers) that resolves some of the amazing story lines that began in the DC UNIVERSE: REBIRTH special. The reveal of Mr. Oz's identity will rock you and the Man of Steel to the core.

**What is the significance of the cover image for ACTION COMICS #987?**

**Dan Jurgens:** The cover to ACTION #987 deals with the pain of one of the main characters in the story. I wouldn't say we're about to get medieval, necessarily, but we are going to go deep on one character's history. Those experiences will be tremendously important to Superman's future.

**Superman's physical battle is being complicated by a psychological one. How do you show the anguish?**

**DJ:** Anytime I write a story, I try to help the artist understand the most crucial, emotional points of the story. Sort of saying, "This is it, everything all in one panel, and we have to hit the reader between the eyes." It's often about pacing and building up to that one major point in the story that says, "This is it. This is what it's all about." And at that point, it's up to Viktor Bogdanovic, Ryan Sook or whomever is drawing the story to pour their soul into it in order to touch the reader. Fortunately, I'm working with very talented people who do exactly that.

**Are there others who are going to be affected by this story and Mr. Oz?**

**DJ:** Superman doesn't live in a bubble, and this is a story that will rock the worlds of Jon and Lois as well. At its core, this is something of a family story that should affect everyone.

LENTICULAR COVERS BY  
NICK BRADSHAW



**ACTION COMICS #987**  
On sale **SEPTEMBER 13**

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